

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /069 W

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R 091106Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7541

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

KUALA LUMPUR 1527

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

UNCOMMAND REAR CAMP AZAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3547

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, KS, JA, TH

SUBJECT: THAI AVIATION DETACHMENT

REF: BANGKOK 4762

1. SUMMARY. FONOFF BELIEVES IT MAY BE ABLE TO DEFEND  
UN SOFA DESPITE THAI WITHDRAWAL BUT WONDERS ABOUT WITH-  
DRAWAL IMPLICATIONS FOR BROADER QUESTION OF FUTURE OF  
UN COMMAND. END SUMMARY.

2. FONOFF SECURITY DIVISION CHIEF YAMASHITA ASKED POL  
COUNSELOR WHETHER US HAD FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION  
ABOUT REASONS FOR THAI WITHDRAWAL OF ITS AVIATION  
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DETACHMENT FROM JAPAN. POL COUNSELOR SAID THAT WE HAD

ONLY INFORMATION CONVEYED REFTEL (WHICH IS ALL THAT FONOFF HAS) AND ASKED FOR FONOFF INTERPRETATION OF IMPLICATIONS OF THAI WITHDRAWAL FOR UN SOFA. YAMASHITA NOTED THAT IN THE PAST IN DEFENDING UN SOFA IN THE DIET. GOJ HAD STATED THAT IT WAS NATURAL TO MAINTAIN UN SOFA SINCE UN FORCES REMAINED IN KOREA AND JAPAN. HE SAID THAT THAI AVIATION DETACHMENT WAS LAST OF UN "TROOPS" IN JAPAN, NOTING THAT OTHER LIAISON OFFICERS ACCREDITED TO UN COMMAND REAR ARE IN FACT EMBASSY ATTACHES. GOJ THEREFORE EXPECTED OPPOSITION CRITICISM WHEN THAI WITHDRAWAL WAS NOTICED, BUT YAMASHITA EXPRESSED OPINION THAT GOJ WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND CONTINUATION OF JAPAN/UN SOFA. HE SAID THAT HE WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF THAI WITHDRAWAL FOR THE BROADER ASPECTS OF THE UN COMMAND QUESTION, AND ASKED FOR POL COUNSELOR'S VIEWS ON THIS ASPECT.

3. POL COUNSELOR OFFERED PERSONAL OPINION THAT MAINTENANCE OF JAPAN/UN SOFA WAS ONLY ONE PART OF THE UN COMMAND QUESTION WHICH WOULD BE ADDRESSED IN A MUCH BROADER FRAMEWORK. HE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT GOJ WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND THE UN SOFA IN THE DIET, PARTICULARLY IN THE CRITICAL PERIOD AHEAD WHEN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WERE CONSIDERING FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION. YAMASHITA SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THAI WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL APRIL. HE ADDED THAT GOJ WOULD FIND IT VERY HELPFUL IF THAI COULD AVOID PUBLICITY ON ITS ACTION.

4. RE PARA 2 REFTEL. WITHDRAWAL OF AVIATION DETACHMENT WILL LEAVE NO THIRD COUNTRY UN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO UN COMMAND REAR. LIAISON PERSONNEL FROM EIGHT UN COUNTRIES INCLUDING THAI ARE ALL EMBASSY ATTACHES ACCREDITED TO UN COMMAND REAR. NONE ARE STATIONED AT CAMP ZAMA.

5. COMMENT. SINCE EMBASSY HAD EARLIER ASKED SECURITY DIVISION FOR ITS INTERPRETATION OF IMPLICATIONS OF THAI WITHDRAWAL, WE BELIEVE THAT YAMASHITA'S STATEMENT REPRESENTS CONSIDERED FONOFF INTERPRETATION, AT LEAST AT WORKING LEVEL.

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## Message Attributes

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